

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04697 302122Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 301345Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1669
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, TS

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TRAVELS TO GENEVA

1. THE TUNISIAN PRESS ANNOUNCED THE JUNE 29 ARRIVAL IN GENEVA OF PRESIDENT HABIB BOURGUIBA. HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY HIS WIFE WASSILA WHO HAD ARRIVED EARLIER FROM PARIS. THE PRESIDENT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENTOURAGE: THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, THE PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY ALLALLA LAOUTI, AND HIS PRIVATE PHYSICIAN KAABI. BESIDES MADAME WASSILA, MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS MOHAMED JOMAAA (IN GENEVA FOR ILO CONFERENCE) AND MOHAMED BEN FADHEL, TUNISIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, WERE ON HAND TO GREET THE PRESIDENT AT THE AIRPORT.

2 THE PREVIOUS DAY'S PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT "ROUTINE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS" WAS THE REASON FOR BOURGUIBA'S PROJECTED ONE-WEEK STAY IN GENEVA. VARIOUS SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE ACTUAL REASON FOR HIS TRAVEL WAS TO EFFECT RECONCILIATION WITH WASSILA. SHE DEPARTED MARCH 2, 1978 AND REMAINED IN PARIS FOR AN INDEFINITE
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STAY. REPORTEDLY HER CONDITIONS FOR RETURN INCLUDED THE OUSTER OF PARTY DIRECTOR MOHAMED SAYAH AND THE RETURN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HER PROTEGE TAHAR BELKHODJA, WHO HAD BEEN DISMISSED AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR HIS EQUIVOCATION DURING A VIOLENT STRIKE. UNKNOWN ARE THE BOURGUIBAS' ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS, THE DURATION OF THEIR STAY IN SWITZERLAND, OR WHETHER WASSILA WILL ACCOMPANY THE

PRESIDENT TO TUNISIA.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
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